



Office of the
Healthcare
Advocate

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Victoria Veltri
State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Public Health Committee
In support of HB 5977
February 20, 2013**

Good afternoon, Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate ("OHA"). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

HB 5977 represents an important measure in the promotion of consumer access to their medical information. By requiring laboratories to share lab results with a child's parents as soon as they are available, and in the presence of the treating provider, patient and guardian involvement in the medical decision-making process can be significantly enhanced. Although we are cognizant of the need for protection of sensitive medical information, like lab results related to mental health treatment for children age 16 and older, HB 5977 increases consumer participation in their own healthcare and codifies the principle that patients have a right to their medical information.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov.